

May 6, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Columbus Closure Project  
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.  
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

**WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (April 26-May 2, 2003)**

**I. Operations:**

**Building JN-1:**

Work continued on Work Instruction (WI) -1125, Utility Removal in the Hot Equipment Storage Room (HESR). Staff members were briefed on WI-1158, Decontamination and Stabilization of the HESR, and workers began preparation activities.

Work continued on WI-1159, Utility Removal in the JN-1A Controlled Access Area and Old Back Dock and Old Operations Area. WI-1159 was revised to incorporate additional work scope; it is anticipated that next week staff members will be briefed on WI-1159, Rev. 1.

A laundry/personal protective equipment shipment is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2003.

Staff members were briefed on WI-1189 covering removal of the Alpha-Gamma Cell utilities and equipment, and the walkdown of the utilities was completed. Work began, and the electrical circuits were de-energized. The piping will be isolated and purged next week, and work to remove the lines will begin.

The 5-ton hoist and trolley were waste managed and placed in the disposal container. The 5-ton bridge was size reduced and also placed into the disposal container. Two of the 5-ton crane rail sections were removed to allow the 1-ton crane bridge and trolley to be lifted out of the cell and placed into the cask washdown room. Removal of the remaining crane rails (5-ton and 1-ton) and waste management of the 1-ton bridge and trolley will continue next week (WI-1099).

The soil is being removed around the underground piping in the Office area.

The Sauer cost estimate to perform mechanical and electrical work in the pumproom was received and a package prepared to accept the estimate. Development continued on WI-1149 and -1104.

**Building JN-3:**

Water is being continually pumped from under the JN-3 basement via the wells and pumps installed in the Pump Room and around the reactor pool.

**JN-4 Isolation Plan:**

A prebid meeting was held with two contractors to perform electric utility work.

**West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:**

Groundwater is being pumped from the wells on the exterior of JN-3.

**Saxton Waste Project:**

Representatives from General Electric and Savannah River Site were on-site to receive schedule information on the upcoming Saxton waste project. Fabrication work was done for materials needed to perform the waste re-packaging mock-up.

An issue/action tracking form was developed for use in managing the Saxton waste effort. (See attached form)

**Transuranic (TRU) Waste Storage:**

The Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) received a letter of direction from the Department of Energy instructing the project to “design, construct, and outfit” a TRU staging area.

An issue/action tracking form was developed for use in managing the TRU staging area effort. (See attached form)

**TRU Waste Shipping:**

The BCLDP participated in the Small Quantity Site/Carlsbad Field Office conference call this week. The focus of the teleconference was to finalize inventories for both the contact- and remote-handled TRU waste and to discuss the change report required by the Environmental Protection Agency to explain differences in the initial inventory report for 1998 and the current inventory report for 2003.

**Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:**

Two (2) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the JN-1 Charpy Cell. Forty-five cubic feet (45 ft<sup>3</sup>) of compactable LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-

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compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes and IP-2 Sealand containers, for a total volume of 343 ft<sup>3</sup> (313 ft<sup>3</sup> for Envirocare of Utah and 30 ft<sup>3</sup> for Hanford Nuclear Facility disposal).

Twenty-one cubic feet (150 gallons) of JN-1 mop water were radiologically free-released and transferred into the evaporator.

Five B-25 boxes of mixed LLW (MLLW) lead were shipped to Envirocare for treatment and disposal. Total volume of MLLW shipped was 450 ft<sup>3</sup>.

**WIDE Technology Deployment:**

Advance copies of the injection and extraction procedures are in review. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field continues as parts are received. (WI-984) Planning continues to begin extraction testing (WI-1132).

**II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:**

Safety performance is 220 days and 153,833 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

**III. Facilities and Equipment:**

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance for the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. The evaporator is turned on and working well. Unneeded materials outside the buildings are being disposed of as waste or staged for shipping. The DOP test of the WIDE filtration vent is complete. Staff assisted with many site tours throughout the week. Plans began for JN-1 HEPA system reroutes to maintain building negative pressure during removal/decontamination of existing contaminated HEPA ducting.

**IV. Future Work Activities:**

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager  
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk